

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 19, 2004 (Paper No.20). Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 11 and 23 to 26 and 30 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is independent. Claims 12, 27 to 29 and 31 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 are being amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action, with Claim 31 indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the Office Action, Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 11 and 25 to 30 are rejected over U.S. Patent No. 5,793,414 (Shaffer) and U.S. Patent No. 6,285,685 (Bum), Claim 12 is rejected over Shaffer, Bum and U.S. Publication No. 2003/0040962 (Lewis), and Claims 23 and 24 are rejected over Shaffer, Bum and U.S. Patent No. 6,367,009 (Davis).

Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, independent Claim 1 is being amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 31, together with the subject matter of Claim 12. Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.


The other claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised by the Office Action, the entire application is

believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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